

REMARKS

The double patenting rejection is noted and those claims subject to the judicially created doctrine of double patenting have been cancelled without prejudice thereby obviating the double patenting rejection.

The rejection of Claims 1 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §112 have been corrected by the amendment.

The rejections of Claims 2-4, 9 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102 are deemed moot in view of the cancellation of those claims for other reasons. Applicants reserve the right to reassert those claims with arguments for patentability in a continuing application.

The rejections of Claims 11 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103 are also deemed to be moot in view of the cancellation of those claims for other reasons. Applicants reserve the right to reassert those claims with arguments for patentability in a continuing application.

Applicants note with appreciation that Claim 1 was considered to be allowable if amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112. Appropriate amendment has been made. Those rejections are deemed to have been overcome and favorable actions reconsidering and withdrawing the rejections and passing Claim 1 to allowance and issue are respectfully requested.

Claims 5-8, 10 and 15 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but were considered to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 5 from which claims 6, 7 and 8 depend has been rewritten to overcome the rejection. Claims 10, and 15 have also been rewritten to overcome the rejection. Favorable actions to reconsider and withdraw the objections to claims 5-8, 10 and 14 and to pass those claims to allowance and issue are respectfully requested.

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Claim 14 has been amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 such that it is deemed to be in a condition for allowance. Favorable actions reconsidering and withdrawing the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 and passage of Claim 14 to allowance and issue are respectfully requested.

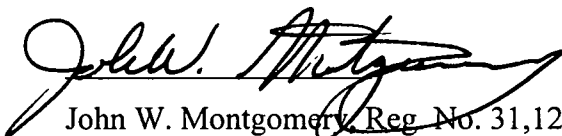
SUMMARY

For all of the foregoing reasons it is submitted that the application as amended is in a condition for allowance on all remaining claims 1, 5-8, 10, 14 and 15. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and objections and favorable action passing the application to allowance and issue are respectfully requested.

A request for an extension of time of 3 months is submitted herewith under separate cover with the requisite fee. In the event that the request or the fee is inadvertently omitted, kindly consider this as a request for extension and as an authorization to charge the required fee to the deposit account indicated herein. In the event that any additional fee is require or over payment is made, kindly debit or credit deposit account number 070153 of Gardere & Wynne, L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,
Gardere & Wynne, L.L.P.

Date: 6-14-00


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